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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2025



Welcome to Northville's Fourth of July!

Northville has a long history of celebrating Independence Day in style and this year's Parade, presented by the Northville Chamber of Commerce, will continue that tradition. The theme, *Hometown U.S.A.*, will be reflected in the floats, music, decorations, and the vintage cars.

Our historic streets have hosted many parades and events over the years, delighting residents and guests (as many as 5,000 came by stagecoach, train and trolley in 1895). In 1927, tens of thousands celebrated our centennial at the 4th of July festivities, and today we are starting to gear up for our Bicentennial celebration in 2027. I encourage you to spend part of your visit strolling the area, envisioning the celebrations of the past and appreciating the beautiful Victorian architecture.

I also invite you to explore Mill Race Village, our living history museum on the banks of the Rouge River, next to Ford Field. This is where Henry Ford and his vagabond group of Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs spent time by the river. There you will find patriotic activities for the whole family after the parade, a large play area, and scenic shady areas on the grounds for a cooling break.

The downtown stores and restaurants offer a wide variety of unique gifts and dining options – there's something here for everyone. We also have live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and dancing on Wednesday evenings. The Social District is a popular destination any night of the week.

As Mayor of the City and on behalf of the citizens of Northville, I welcome you to our town. We're happy you're here and look forward to seeing you throughout the summer!

Keep that Northville July 4th Faith,

Mayor Brian Turnbull
BTurnbull@ci.northville.mi.us
248 505-6849



Marching on

Annual Northville 4th of July Parade has a long community history

The Fourth of July commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by Congress in 1776. This officially declared that the 13 established colonies were now legally separate from Great Britain, one of the motivating factors of the first Pilgrims who first arrived in 1620 to pursue religious freedom.

As has become an area-wide tradition, the birthday of the United States of America will be commemorated in Northville when the annual 4th of July Parade steps off at 10 a.m.

This is the 149th year the Northville community has celebrated the birth of the nation as the first recorded celebration of Independence Day was an 1876 Centennial celebration.

At that time, Civil War General Ulysses S. Grant was completing a sec-

ond term as President of the United States, the Transcontinental Railroad was finished (1869), Alexander Graham Bell received his first patent for the telephone and made that first historic call. Only a few weeks before the July 4th celebration, Lt. Colonel George Custer was killed and his 7th Cavalry defeated by the Sioux and Cheyenne in the Battle of Little Big Horn.

At the time of that first celebration, Northville was a burgeoning village, incorporated in 1867. The area experienced a surge in manufacturing and industry during the next decade. Lumber was a booming enterprise with J.A. Dubuar's sawmill supplying wood for construction of downtown general stores, mills, taverns, cobbler shops, millineries, carriage manufac-

turers and professional offices.

The nation was slightly more than a decade removed from the Civil War, and more than a third of the 150 Northville men who served in that conflict did not return home, according to historical records. Many of those who did return from the war became village and industry leaders. Among those was Benijah Parmenter, who used his military pension in 1873 to establish a mill for making cider, apple butter and vinegar in the Village of Northville.

The first high school, Northville Union School, was built in the village in 1876 and the community had the first village newspaper. First published in 1869 as the Wayne County Record, it became The Northville Record when publisher Samuel H.



The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps has appeared in the Northville 4th of July Parade for decades and always receives a round of applause from the crowds.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2025

Little changed the name on Dec. 24, 1870.

The front page of The Northville Record reported the July 4, 1876 celebration.

"The Centennial 4th of July was observed in our village in a very satisfactory manner, although the programme which had been advertised could not be carried out by reason of a severe storm, which continued until afternoon. As soon as the storm abated, the people began to come into town, so that by two o'clock several hundred had collected," according to the newspaper account of the day.

"The grove was too wet," so a platform was "hastily constructed against the school building." The ceremony most likely took place at the Northville Union School, which was located on

Main Street.

"A salute of 18 guns was fired at midnight ushering in the 100th anniversary of our nation's birth, and a general din of lesser noise was kept up through the day . . ." the news report of the day continued.

The July 4th celebration in 1876 included more than 2 hours of speeches.

Among the speakers were many prominent citizens of the village. J.M. Swift, a physician and surgeon who had an office in his residence on West Main Street, gave a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Orator of the day was Northville pioneer William P. Yerkes, whose address included recollections of the early years of the settlement of the community.

"A very large number of pioneers were present, and each contributed to the good cheer of the occasion," according to the newspaper account. Among those participating in the exercises was Robert McFarland, who was "believed to be the oldest first settler now living."

In addition to an 18-gun salute, the historic celebration included music by the Northville Cornet Band and a show of fireworks in the evening closed the celebration.

Following the long history of the Northville 4th of July Parade, the event has evolved into one of the most popular Independence Day celebrations in the area, now drawing crowds of thousands from throughout western Wayne County to view the hometown salute to the nation.

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Stepping back in time

Historic Mill Race Village to host after-parade celebrations

The celebration of Northville history doesn't end as the final marchers in the annual parade pass by.

As has become a 4th of July tradition, Mill Race Historical Village will host demonstrations and historic reenactments featuring Citizens of the American Colonies; the 2nd South Carolina and 1st Pennsylvania Military groups; Benjamin Franklin; the Village Blacksmith and the Mill Race Weavers Guild.

Also planned is an interactive signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tours of village buildings will be available, and the J.M. Mead General Store will be open.

Other activities planned include lawn games, face painting and balloon animals sponsored by Carl Schrauben of the Patti Mullen Real Estate Group.

Mill Race Historical Village, considered a gem of the Northville community carefully preserves the history of the community. The Village is home to the



J. M. Mead General Store

circa 1831 Cady Inn, the reproduction Hirsch Blacksmith Shop with a working Smithy on open Sundays and at special events, the 1845 New School Church, the 1851 Greek Revival

Hunter House, the 1873 Carpenter Gothic Yerkes Home, a Gazebo built in 1979 by high school students, a circa 1889 Victorian Cottage, the JM Mead General Store, circa 1830-1850, an original Interurban Station, built in the 1890s and the beloved circa 1873 Wash Oak School. Beginning in 1972, the buildings were moved from other locations in Northville, or reconstructed on site, on land donated by the Ford Motor Co.

A living museum, the village was once the site of a grist mill, the Village is also home to a church, gazebo, school, rustic wooden bridge, interurban train station and several homes reminiscent of an era gone by. The New School Church was built in 1845 by a splinter group of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville. The Church exhibits a Greek Revival architectural style with a columned entrance portico. Moved to the Village in 1972, the Church is currently used



Yerkes House



Hunter House

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2025⁷



Hirsch Blacksmith Shop



New School Church



Wash Oak School

for meetings, classes and weddings. It was the first building moved to the now flourishing village.

The Rouge River flows through the village which is also the site of a large gazebo. Modeled after a turn of the century version, the gazebo was built

in 1979 by high school students.

The purpose of the Northville Historical Society is to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Northville. The major function of the society members is to discover, collect, observe,

advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Northville region.

The village will be open from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. July 4 and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Entrance to the village is at 215 Griswold St.



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2025 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE LINE-UP

Preliminary Line Up Some Changes May Have Occurred



1. *City of Northville Police Department*
2. *City of Northville Fire Department*
3. *Northville Township Motorcycle Unit*
4. *Maybury Farm*
5. *Northville Community Foundation*
6. *NHS Marching Band*
7. *Orin Jewelers*
8. *Citizen of the Year – Rachelle Vartanian*
9. *Rotary Club Bike Parade*
10. *State Senator Rosemary Bayer*
11. *State Representative Matt Koleszar*
12. *Mayor Brian Turnbull*
13. *Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki*
14. *St. Paul Lutheran Church and School*
15. *Northville Concours D'Elegance*
16. *Goldfish Swim School*
17. *Iron Mortgage*
18. *Life Driving Academy*

2025 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE LINE-UP

19. *First Baptist Church of Northville*
20. *Northville Democratic Club*
21. *International Order of Alhambra*
22. *Clowns of America International*
23. *Northville Historical Society*
24. *Northville Youth Football Association*
25. *PKSA Karate – Northville, LLC*
26. *Northville First United Methodist Church*
27. *Northville Republican Club*
28. *Friends of Maybury State Park*
29. *First Presbyterian Church of Northville*
30. *Northville City Car Wash*
31. *Cub Scout Pack 746*
32. *Jeep – Mike Borg*
33. *BinBath*
34. *Mayflower Towing*
35. *Northville Township Fire Department*



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Rolling along

Northville Rotary Club sponsors return of Kids Bike Parade

A long-time favorite attraction will return to the streets of Northville this year when the Kids' Bike Parade pedals down Main Street during the annual Fourth of July Parade.

The parade, which will as usual feature floats, bands, mascots, club marchers, celebrities and local officials will step off at 10 a.m. this year on Friday, July 4.

The return of the bike parade is being organized and sponsored by the members of the Northville Rotary Club. One of the organizers, Lindsey Casterline, said the bike parade is a

nostalgic event for many residents who actually rode their patriotically decorated bikes in the parade as children. When she suggested the return of the young riders, her fellow Rotary Club members agreed and the members of Rotary Service Committee including Casterline, Traci Sincock, Carol Schrauben and Jennifer Walker went to work organizing the bikers for the parade July 4.

Casterline said the Rotary Club entered a float in the parade last year; but she, and others, missed seeing the children on their creatively decorated

bikes. This year, Casterline's 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, will be among the kids displaying their creative decorating ideas. Casterline said the plans for the bike decoration were still being formulated but that it will be Lucy who designs the final entry.

"We're looking forward to it," Casterline, a 12-year member of the club said.

In past years, the bike parade had been a competition with the best girls' and best boys' entry awarded a prize.

See **Bikes**, page 12



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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2025



The Kids' Bike Parade, featuring original red, white and blue decorated bikes will return to the Northville 4th of July Parade this year.

Bikes from page 11

This year, Casterline said, they are concentrating on fun and family participation. "The more decorations, the bet-

ter," she added.

"This is a family event," Casterline said

The Northville Rotary Club, organized in 1926, has about 55 members of

the international organization, which is the world's oldest and largest non-political, non-sectarian service club.

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and its members and supporters have donated over \$235,000 in grant awards and scholarships, in addition to the contribution of countless hours of service to worthwhile endeavors supporting children, individuals, families and community organizations in Northville, the metro-Detroit community, and global humanitarian projects.

Recent Grant Awards at the local and Southeastern Michigan community level

Globally, Northville Rotary Foundation has supported a number of meaningful projects across the world, including:

“Days for Girls - together with Rotary Club of Plymouth, supported the Days for Girls project to fund personal hygiene kits and education

*The Northville Rotary Club,
organized in 1926,
has about 55 members.*

efforts for girls in Tanzania, Africa.

“Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Project, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico - partnered with the Seaside Rotary Club of Playa del Carmen in their effort to end the cycle of poverty by supporting students to continue their education at the high school and University levels.

“LaBiblioteca (The Library) - Santa Clara, Michoacan, Mexico - Along with a matching grant from District 6400, this grant funded the development of a

school library, including internet connectivity, computers and an online connection to the Northville District Library to access state of the art educational materials, to benefit elementary and middle school students in Santa Clara.

“Rotary District 6400 - 2022 Mission to Ghana - partnered with the Rotary Club of Essex, Ontario, Canada to support the 2022 Mission to Ghana.

“Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Projects at Kiparang'anda Primary School in Mkuranga, Tanzania, Africa.

“Shelter Box - Hero Program - Three year commitment to contribute to the creation of emergency Shelter Boxes for global community disaster relief.

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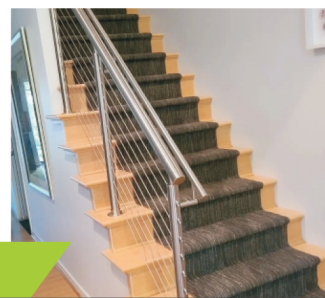
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